

REMARKS

With the entry of this Amendment, claims 8 and 22-30 will be pending in this patent application.

In this paper, claim 8 is amended, new claims 22-30 are added and claims 1-7 and 9-21 are canceled.

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

To obviate the Examiner's objection to the drawings, Applicant is submitting herewith a Replacement Sheet with a new drawing Fig. 14A showing details of a modification of the fourth embodiment of the invention, as described in paragraph 0057 of the specification in this application as filed and as now recited, for example, in claims 23 and 30. The Replacement Sheet is to take the place of the original drawing sheet containing Fig. 14. No new matter is introduced by this amendment to the drawings.

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Applicant is amending the specification to provide a brief description of new drawing Fig. 14A and a reference to this figure in paragraph 0057. No new matter is introduced by these amendments to the specification.

PRIOR ART REJECTION I

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4583315 (Schreck). Applicant traverses this rejection insofar as it might be deemed applicable to either of claims 8 or 28 as now presented.

Without acquiescing in the rejection, Applicant has canceled claim 1-7 and has amended claim 8 to recite the first spool unit as having a first flange and a first side member, which also is used as a second flange. Claim 8 has also been amended to recite the second spool unit as having a third flange and a second side member, which also is used as a fourth flange. Claim 8 has also been amended to recite a support shaft integrally provided at the center of one of the first and second side members and a receiver shaft integrally provided in the other one of the side

members; the support shaft is recited as extending toward the first flange side, and the receiver shaft is recited as extending toward the third flange side. Claim 8 has also been amended to remove the requirement for a detachable connection between the first short cylindrical unit and a side member. Support for the amendments to claim 8 can be found in paragraphs [0028], [0029], [0033] to [0033], Fig. 1 and Fig. 6 of this application as filed.

Applicant submits that the disclosure in Schreck cannot satisfy the clearly recited requirements of claim 8 as now presented. As characterized by the Examiner, elements 26, 30 of the Schreck spool assembly serve as a mechanism for "supporting the second spool unit in such a fashion that the second short cylindrical unit rotates about the center thereof. As shown in Fig. 1 of Schreck, element 26 cannot be fairly characterized as integrally provided with either of any elements that could be fairly characterized as side members of first or second spool units. In addition, neither of elements 26, 30 of Schreck can be fairly characterized as extending toward the "first flange side" or the "third flange side," as these features are recited in claim 8. Furthermore, a fair reading of the Schreck disclosure cannot meet the *combination* of the first spool unit, the second spool unit and the support mechanism, as now recited in claim 8.

Claim 28, which reads on the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Fig. 15, calls for a first spool unit having a first short cylindrical unit, first and second flanges at opposite sides of the first short cylindrical unit and a wall provided at the inner center of the first short cylindrical unit whereby a pair of housings are formed on both sides of the wall. Claim 28 also calls for a pair of second spool units having attributes of the second spool units recited in claim 8. Claim 28 also calls for a support shaft integrally provided at the center of the wall and extending toward both of the first and second flange sides, as well as a receiver shaft integrally provided at the center of the side members of the second spool units and extending toward the third flange side. Applicant submits that the analysis of the disclosure in Schreck vis-à-vis the requirements of claim 8 is applicable as well to the requirements of claim 28.

In view of the foregoing observations, Applicant submits that the disclosure in Schreck cannot properly serve as a basis for rejecting either of claims 8 or 28 as now presented under 35 USC § 102(b).

PRIOR ART REJECTION II

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreck in view of US 2004/0035973 A1 (Henrion).

Applicant submits that this rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 6 and 7.

PRIOR ART REJECTION III

Claims 8-12 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreck in view of US 3442464 (Broos). Applicant traverses this rejection insofar as it might be deemed applicable to any of claims 22-27, 29 and 30 as now presented.

Support for the subject matter recited in claims 22, 23, 29 and 30 is provided, for example, in paragraph [0057] of the specification in this application as filed. Support for the subject matter recited in claims 24-27 is provided, for example, in Fig. 14 of the drawings in this application as filed.

The Examiner relies on Broos for a disclosure of side members or flanges detachably coupled to a cylinder of a spool and proposes modifying the Schreck spool assembly in view of the Broos disclosure so that a side member is detachable from a spool cylinder.

Schreck, of course, offers no disclosure or suggestion of making a side member detachable from a cylinder, and Broos offers no disclosure or suggestion of the applicability of the detachable side member in a relatively complex spool assembly like Schreck's. In view of these observations, Applicant submits that the modification of Schreck proposed by the Examiner would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant notes that the disclosure in Broos offers no remedy for deficiencies in the Schreck disclosure vis-à-vis the clear requirements of Applicant's independent claims 8 and 28. Consequently, even if the Schreck spool assembly were modified as proposed by the Examiner, the resulting structure could not meet the requirements of dependent claims 22-27, 29 and 30.

In view of the foregoing observations, Applicant submits that no reasonable combination of the disclosures in Schreck and Broos can properly serve as a basis for rejecting any of claims 22-27, 29 and 30 as now presented under 35 USC § 103(a).

PRIOR ART REJECTION IV

Claims 13, 14, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schreck in view of Broos and Henrion.

Applicant submits that this rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 13, 14, 20 and 21.

OTHER PRIOR ART

Applicant has considered the other prior art cited by the Examiner. Applicant is not commenting on this prior art, because it was not applied against the claims in this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments, observations and arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection and the rejections stated in the outstanding Office Action and recognize all of the pending claims as allowable.

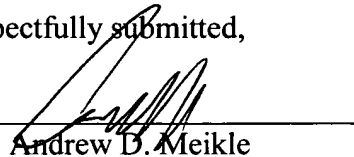
If unresolved matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Frederick R. Handren, Reg. No. 32,874, at the telephone number provided below, so that these matters can be resolved expeditiously.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (Figs. 14 & 14A)

Application No. 10/532,427
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the attached Replacement Sheet for the original drawing sheet containing Fig. 14.